

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated December 23, 2005, and notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7-10 and 15-18. In light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of all rejections is respectfully requested.

To address the rejections of claims 1-18 on double patenting grounds over co-pending U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/631,386, Applicant submits a suitable Terminal Disclaimer. The fee due may be debited from Deposit Account 11-0978.

Turning to the substantive rejections, Applicant amends claim 1 to include the limitations of canceled claims 7 or 15, which the Examiner agrees are "free of the prior art." Accordingly, these amendments are believed to overcome the rejections of claims 1-18 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0074042 to Overvaag, as well as the rejections of claims 1-6, 11-14 and 19 as anticipated by either U.S. Patent 6,035,486 to McCormick or U.S. Patent No. 4,545,794 to Himukai. Specifically, none of these references disclose the claimed housing defining a dirt collection chamber with a first sidewall having both an inlet and an outlet in communication with the dirt collection chamber. Accordingly, claim 1 and its progeny should all be allowed.

S.N.: 10/631,365

In summary, all the pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art and should be formally allowed. Upon careful review and consideration it is believed the Examiner will agree with this proposition. However, if it is determined that a further issue requires attention, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned. Any fees due may be deposited from Deposit Account 11-0978.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew D. Dorisio', is written over the firm name.

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